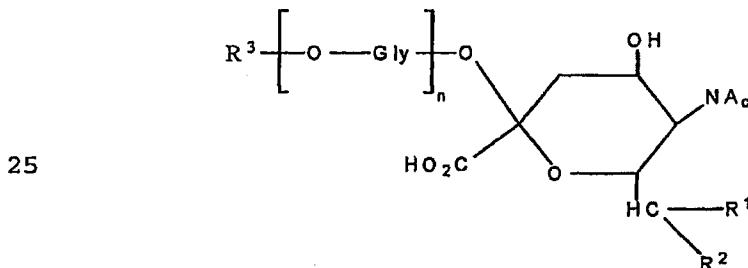


CLAIMS

1. A compound comprising a polysaccharide acid a pendant moiety linked at least one terminal unit derived from a sialic acid unit which includes a functional group selected from N-maleimide groups, 5 vinylsulphone groups, N-iodoacetamide groups orthopyridyl disulphide groups.
2. A compound according to claim 1 in which the pendant moiety is linked at the reducing terminal unit of the polysaccharide.
3. A compound according to claim 1 or claim 2 in which the 10 moiety is linked at the non-reducing terminal unit of the polysaccharide.
4. A compound according to any preceding claim in which the moiety comprises an alkanediyl group and/or an arylene group and a linkage optionally in combination with a oxalkylene or oligoaza-alkylene group which is a secondary amine linkage, a hydrazone, an alkyl hydrazide linkage or a 15 peptide linkage.
5. A compound according to any preceding claim in which the functional group is N-maleimido.
6. A compound according to any preceding claim in which the polysaccharide is a polysialic acid, preferably consisting substantially only of 20 sialic acid units
7. A compound which the compound has the formula



in which one of the following groups of definitions apply:

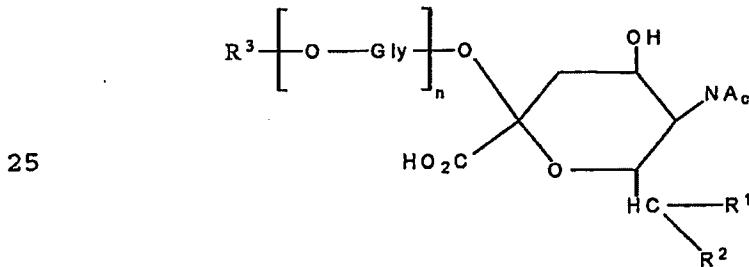
- i) R¹ is H or -CHOHCH₂OH, R² is OH and R³ is either 30 -CH₂CHR⁴R⁵ or -CH(CH₂OH)CHR⁴R⁵ in which R⁴ and R⁵ together represent =N-NR⁶ or R⁴ is H and R⁵ is -NR⁶R⁷ in which R⁶ is an organic group

AMENDED CLAIMS

[Received by the International Bureau on 13 December 2004 (13.12.2004):
original claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 11 and 22 amended; remaining claims unchanged; (4 pages)]

CLAIMS

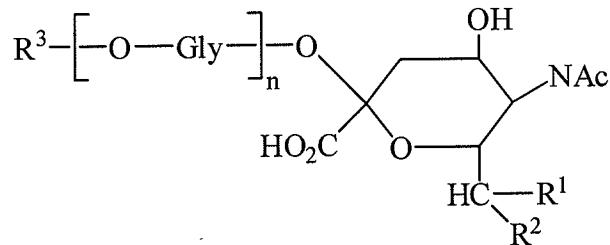
1. A compound comprising a polysaccharide having a pendant moiety linked to at least one terminal unit derived from a sialic acid unit which includes a functional group selected from N-maleimide groups, 5 vinylsulphone groups, N-iodoacetamide groups and orthopyridyl disulphide groups.
2. A compound according to claim 1 in which the pendant moiety is linked at the reducing terminal unit of the polysaccharide.
3. A compound according to claim 1 or claim 2 in which the 10 moiety is linked at the non-reducing terminal unit of the polysaccharide.
4. A compound according to any preceding claim in which the moiety comprises an alkanediyl group and/or an arylene group and a linkage optionally in combination with a oxalkylene or oligooxa-alkylene group which is a secondary amine linkage, a hydrazone, an alkyl hydrazide linkage or a 15 peptide linkage.
5. A compound according to any preceding claim in which the functional group is N-maleimido.
6. A compound according to any preceding claim in which the polysaccharide is a polysialic acid, preferably consisting substantially only of 20 sialic acid units.
7. A compound according to claim 1 which has the formula



in which one of the following groups of definitions apply:

- i) R¹ is H or -CHOHCH₂OH, R² is OH and R³ is either -CH₂CHR⁴R⁵ or -CH(CH₂OH)CHR⁴R⁵ in which R⁴ and R⁵ together represent =N-NR⁶ or R⁴ is H and R⁵ is -NR⁶R⁷ in which R⁶ is an organic group

7. (currently amended): [[A]] The compound according to of claim 1 which has the formula



in which one of the following groups of definitions apply wherein:

[[i]] (a) R¹ is H or -CHOHCH₂OH, and R² is OH, [[and]]

R³ is [[either]] -CH₂CHR⁴R⁵ or -CH(CH₂OH)CHR⁴R⁵ in which wherein R⁴ and R⁵ together represent =N-NR⁶ or R⁴ is H and R⁵ is -NR⁶R⁷ in which R⁶ is an organic group comprising the said pendant functional group or is H, and R⁷ is H, or R⁶ and R⁷ together are a 1,3-but-2-enedioyl group; or

[[ii]] (b) R¹ and R² together represent =N-NR⁶ =N-NHR⁶ or R¹ is H and R² is -NR⁶R⁷ in which R⁶ is an organic group comprising the said pendant functional group or is H, and R⁷ is H or R⁶ and R⁷ together are a 1,3-but-2-enedioyl group;

[[Gly-O]] O-Gly is a glycosyl (saccharide) group;

n is 0 or more 1-50; and

Ac is acetyl.

8. (currently amended): A compound according to of claim 7 in which each Gly each O-Gly is a sialic acid unit.

9. (currently amended): A compound comprising a polysialylated protein with at least one [[free]] cysteine unit [[and,]] linked through a thioester bond to the side chain of the cysteine unit, with a polysialic acid, through a moiety joined at one or each at least one terminal units of the unit of a polysialic acid.

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (currently amended): A compound comprising a polysaccharide having at least two sialic acid units linked 2.8 and/or 2.9 to one another, and having reducing and non-reducing terminal units and said polysaccharides having a pendant moiety linked to at least one the reducing terminal unit derived from a sialic acid unit which pendant moiety includes a functional group selected from N-maleimide, vinylsulphone vinyl sulfone, N-iodoacetamide and orthopyridyl disulphide disulfide.

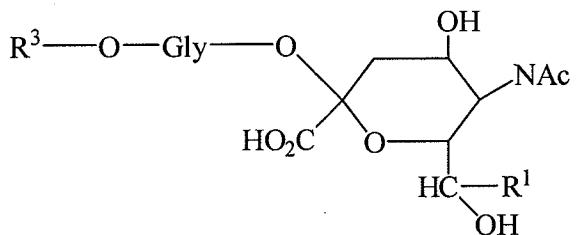
2-3. (canceled)

4. (currently amended): A compound of claim 1 in which wherein the pendant moiety further comprises alkylene and/or arylene and/or an oxalkylene and/or oligooxa-alkylene and/or oligopeptide.

5. (currently amended): A compound of claim 1 in which wherein the functional group is N-maleimido.

6. (currently amended): A compound of claim 1 in which wherein the polysaccharide is a polysialic acid.

7. (currently amended): The compound of claim 1 which has the formula



wherein:

[(a)] R¹ is H or -CHOHCH₂OH, and R² is OH,